NOTE XIX.

ON ARACHNOTHERA LONGIROSTRA (LATHAM)

BY

Dr. E. D. VAN OORT.

The typical habitat of *Arachnothera longirostra* (Latham) — Ind. Orn. I, 1790, p. 299, *Certhia longirostra* — is Bengal. This form is spread over an extensive area, but specimens of some of the Malay islands show differences with those of the continent of Asia. How far away from Bengal the typical form is found, I am not able to say with full certainty, as the material I have at my disposal from the continent and also from Sumatra is very poor, but it seems to me that examples from the continent, from the Malay Peninsula, from the Riouw-Lingga Archipelago, from Sumatra, Banka and Billiton belong to one and the same form. As said, my material from these parts however is very poor. In the Leyden Museum there are 1 specimen from Tenasserim, 5 specimens from Sumatra, 2 from Billiton, 5 from Banka, 8 from Nias, 9 from Java, 16 from Borneo, 1 from Celebes and 2 from the Philippines. Through the kindness of Dr. Hartert I received for examination from the Rothschild Museum in Tring 10 specimens from the continent, 2 from Lingga, 10 from the Natoena Islands, 2 from Serasan, 2 from the Mentawei Islands and 1 from Borneo. The results of the examination of this material are the following.

The specimens from Sumatra, Banka, Billiton, Lingga, from Malakka and from other parts of the continent belong very likely to the typical *Arachnothera longirostra* (Latham); the bill measures from 34 mm. (♀♀) to 41 mm.

(♂♂), the wing from 58 (♀♀) to 69 mm. (♂♂); the yellow of the under parts is rather pale.

The ten specimens from the Natoena Islands (Boengoeran) collected by A. Everett (Hartert, Nov. Zool. I, 1894, p. 469) are distinguished by their shorter bill; also their wing is, as a rule, shorter. The bill measures from 31 (♀♀) to 35 mm. (♂♂); the wing from 58 (♀♀) to 64 mm. (♂♂). I propose to separate this form under the name of *Arachnothera longirostra rothschildi* nov. subsp. The yellow of the under parts in this form is the same as that of the examples from Sumatra etc.

The two specimens, both males, from Serasan (Sirhassen) of the Zeeroovers Islands differ from those of the Natoena Islands by having a somewhat longer bill (35,5 and 40 mm.) and more agree with specimens from Borneo, also by the somewhat brighter yellow of the under parts. Already Everett has stated, that this island belongs, zoologically, to Borneo (Nov. Zool. I, 1894, p. 468).

The eight specimens from Nias differ from the Sumatran ones by their longer bill, 38 mm. (♀♀) to 42 mm. (♂♂), by their, as a rule, longer wing 62 mm. (♀♀) to 70 mm. (♂♂) and by the very pale yellow of the under parts. I separate this form under the name of *Arachnothera longirostra niasensis* nov. subsp.

The two specimens from the Mentawei Islands (Si oban, Pora), both females, have a shorter bill (33 and 34 mm.) than those from Nias, and agree more, also by the stronger yellow of the under parts, with specimens from Sumatra than with those from Nias.

The specimens from Borneo are distinguished by the brighter yellow of the under parts; they have also a long bill, 34 mm. (♀♀) to 42 mm. (♂♂), and a long wing, 61 mm. (♀♀) to 70 mm. (♂♂). I name this form after my friend Dr. Büttikofer, who collected a fine series of it: *Arachnothera longirostra büttikoferi* nov. subsp.

The specimens from Java are, as a rule but not always, a little brighter yellow at the under parts than those from

Borneo; they have a longer bill, 39 mm. (♀♀) to 45 mm. (♂♂), and also a longer wing, 63 (♀♀) to 75 mm. (♂♂). This form is to be called: *Arachnothera longirostra prillwitzi* Hartert (Nov. Zool. VIII, 1901, p. 51).

The specimen, which should have been collected by Dr. Forsten in the north of Celebes, is a pale-breasted, long-billed (41 mm.) and long-winged (71 mm.) example, that seems to me to be a wrongly labelled javan specimen, that has been prepared moreover from alcohol.

In the two birds, male and female, from the Philippines (Mindanao and Samar) the yellow of the under parts is bright golden yellow and this colour does not extend on the breast like in the other forms; they are short-billed (31 and 32 mm.) examples with a length of wing of 62 and 63 mm. They are to be called: *Arachnothera longirostra flammifera* Tweeddale (Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1878, p. 343).

I have not seen specimens of the Palawan form *Arachnothera dilutior* Sharpe (Nature, 1876, p. 298), but it seems to me to be also a subspecies of *Arachnothera longirostra*.

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